

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 11, 20, 21, and 24-34 were withdrawn in response to an earlier Election of Species. Please amend claims 1, 17, and 35 and cancel claims 36-46 as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for securing a small recreational vehicle to a bed of a towing vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

a mounting shaft configured to be securably positionable ~~proximal to~~  
spaced from said bed of said towing vehicle;

a receiver operably attachable to said mounting shaft; and

a securing device attachable to said small recreational vehicle, said securing device securably engaging said receiver when said small recreational vehicle is placed on said bed of said towing vehicle, thereby holding said small recreational vehicle on said bed of said towing vehicle.

2. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said securing device comprises a securing ring.

3. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said receiver is adjustable along said mounting shaft to allow alignment with said securing ring.

4. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said receiver comprises a u-shaped bracket with parallel arms extending outward from said mounting shaft.

5. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 4, wherein said securing ring fits between said parallel arms of said u-shaped bracket.

6. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein each of said parallel arms define an aperture therein and a fastening device is positionable through said apertures and said securing ring to secure said small recreational vehicle to said u-shaped bracket and said towing vehicle.

7. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 6, wherein said fastening device is a hitch pin.

8. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said securing ring is lockable to said receiver.

9. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said towing vehicle is a trailer.

10. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 9, wherein said mounting shaft is attachable to a tongue of said trailer.

11. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said mounting shaft defines a channel whereby said receiver is attachable inside said channel of said shaft.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said securing ring is removably attachable to allow said securing ring to be positioned at different locations on said small recreational vehicle.

13. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said securing ring is mounted on a ring plate that is attachable to said small recreational vehicle.

14. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said ring plate is mountable to different parts of said small recreational vehicle.

15. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 13, wherein said ring plate is mountable to a bush guard of said small recreational vehicle by engaging a holding plate.

16. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said mounting shaft comprises a unitary structure.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for securing a small recreational vehicle to a bed of a towing vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

a mounting shaft having a receiver disposed thereon, said mounting shaft configured to be securably positionable ~~proximal to~~ spaced from said bed of said

5 towing vehicle; and

a securing ring attachable to said small recreational vehicle, said securing ring securably engaging said receiver to fasten said small recreational vehicle on said bed of said towing vehicle.

18. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said towing vehicle is a trailer.

19. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 18, wherein said mounting shaft is attachable to a tongue of a trailer.

20. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said mounting shaft defines a channel whereby said receiver is attachable inside said channel of said shaft.

21. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said receiver is integral with said mounting shaft.

22. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said receiver is adjustable along said mounting shaft.

23. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 17, wherein said mounting shaft comprises a unitary structure.

24. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for securing a small recreational vehicle to a bed of a towing vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver mounting plate securably mountable to a sidewall of said bed of said towing vehicle

5 a receiver disposed on said receiver mounting plate; and

a securing device attachable to said small recreational vehicle, said securing device securably engaging said receiver to fasten said small recreational vehicle on said bed of said towing vehicle.

25. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said securing  
10 device comprises a securing ring.

26. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said receiver is adjustable along said receiver mounting plate.

27. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 26, further comprising locking walls disposed on said receiver mounting plate, said receiver adjustable along said locking walls.

28. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said receiver comprises a u-shaped bracket having parallel arms extending toward said bed of said towing vehicle.

29. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 28, wherein said securing ring fits between said parallel arms of said u-shaped bracket.

30. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 29, wherein each of said parallel arms define an aperture therein and a fastening device is positionable through said apertures and said securing ring to secure said small recreational vehicle to said u-shaped bracket and said towing vehicle.

31. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 30, wherein said fastening device is a hitch pin.

32. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said securing ring is lockable to said receiver.

33. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said towing vehicle is a trailer.

34. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as in claim 24, wherein said towing vehicle is a truck.

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for securing a small recreational vehicle to a bed of a towing vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

15 a mounting shaft extending in a longitudinal length and having a first end and a second end at opposing ends of said longitudinal length;

a mounting base integral to said shaft at said first end, said mounting base configured to be attachable ~~to~~ around a tongue of said towing vehicle by a holding plate so that said second end of said shaft extends above said bed of  
20 said towing vehicle;

a U-shaped receiver operably attachable to said shaft by securing bolts, said u-shaped receiver having parallel arms extending outward from said shaft when said receiver is attached to said shaft and said receiver being adjustable along said shaft to accommodate small recreational vehicles of different heights;

25        said parallel arms each defining a locking aperture which are in parallel alignment with each other;

          a securing ring attachable to said small recreational vehicle, said securing ring defining a ring aperture and fitting between said extending arms of said U-shaped receiver when said small recreational vehicle is placed on said bed of  
30        said towing vehicle, said securing ring extending past said apertures defined in said parallel arms so that said locking apertures and said ring aperture are aligned; and

          a removable fastening device positionable through both said locking apertures of said parallel arms and said ring aperture ~~apertures~~ of said securing  
35        ring to hold said small recreational vehicle on said bed of said towing vehicle.

36-46. (Canceled)